

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

TOPIC 1. Construction of Czech Border Obstacles in the Varnsdorf-Sluknov Border 25X1

2. Conditions in the Czech Border Area around Hradec 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTE

DATE OBTAINED

17 February 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. In November and until late December 1954, construction of border obstacles on Czech territory was extended from the Varnsdorf (O 51/G 87) area as far as the Sluknov (O 52/F 78, Schluckenau) area. The barbed-wire obstacles in the area about 2 kilometers west of Varnsdorf already extended as far as the Rumburk (O 51/F 88) - Seifhennersdorf (O 51/F 88) road. A threefold obstacle of poles somewhat higher than 1.5 meter was observed near Seifhennersdorf. In November 1954, no wire obstacles were observed in the sector between Seifhennersdorf and Neugersdorf (O 51/F 88). Building materials were stored on the Czech side of the border-crossing point on the Neugersdorf - Rumburk road. In late November 1954, a continuous obstacle of knife rests arranged in three lines led from this road past the western perimeter of Neugersdorf as far as the Jirkov (Georgswalde, O 51/F 78) railroad station. In some sections, this obstacle ran just on the southwestern bank of the Spree River which formed the border in this area. At the border-crossing point on the Neugersdorf - Rumburk road, the obstacle still consisted of only three parallel lines of poles about 1.5 meters high. At this time, each pole line mounted only one wire. In late December 1954, Czech border guard soldiers constructed a wooden watchtower, about 15 meters high, beside the former "Deutsches Haus" inn in Filipov (O 51/F 88).
2. In the area of the Taubenberg (hill) in the woods south of Taubenheim (O 52/F 79), the Czechs cleared a lane along the border and blew up the roots. According to a VP, the Czechs started inserting the poles for wire obstacles in the area of the Taubenberg (hill) as early as December 1954. Also in December 1954, a one-line barbed-wire obstacle about 300 meters long and about 3 meters high was located on the west side of the Sluknov - Fukov (Fugau, O 52/F 79) road, about 1.5 kilometers south of the railroad line which crossed the border corner.

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- 2 -

3. From 23 November to 10 December 1954, numerous stadia rods were observed [redacted] in the terrain on the northwestern perimeter of Varnsdorf. [redacted], Czech troops engaged in surveying activities on the border. At the same time, about 200 barbed-wire rolls were observed at the Varnsdorf railroad station.

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4. [redacted] prior to September 1954, 800 Czech border-guard soldiers and numerous dogs were stationed at the castle. This number of men was located at the site since 1953. Prior to September 1954, loudspeakers frequently announced in Hradek nad Sazavou that the armed forces were going to hold firing practices.

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5. In August and September 1954, roots of trees were blown up on the Czech side of the Czech-German border west of Hradek nad Sazavou. The apartment houses of the former Elster textile factory in Gerstorf (Goersdorf, O 51/F 97) which were located directly in the border area were vacated. Starting in March or April 1954, other residents of [redacted] and farms which were located within a 500-meter-wide border zone were evacuated. During 1954, the construction of trenches and barbed-wire entanglements was observed from Hradek nad Sazavou on the Polish side of the Czech-Polish border.
6. In 1954, Gerstorf (Goersdorf) was redesignated Grottaw II, and Donin (Doenis, O 51/G 07, Grottaw III.

[redacted] Comment. [redacted] It appears that the construction of border obstacles is being systematically extended to the northwest.

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